

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /084 W

----- 049492

R 271150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9331

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ET SU

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN NOTES

REF: KHARTOUM 203 NOTAL

1. ETHIOPIAN CHARGE TEFERRA SHAWL CONFIRMED TO DCM JAN 25 THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO ADDIS TO BECOME QUOTE PRESS ADVISOR TO THE CHAIRMAN OF PMAC UNQUOTE AS SOON AS A NEW AMBASSADOR WAS IN PLACE IN KHARTOUM, PROBABLY WITHIN A MONTH. HE SAID SUDANESE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FAKHLE AL-DIN MUHAMMED WOULD PRESENT CREDENTIALS IN ADDIS THIS WEEK.

2. TEFERRA (WHO IS NOT EXCESSIVELY MODEST) SAID HE HAD TOLD TEFERI BENTI AND OTHER PMAC MEMBERS DURING RECENT ADDIS CONSULTATIONS THAT PMAC PUBLIC IMAGE SUFFEREING AS RESULT MIS-HANDLING BY MILITARY OF ANNOUNCEMENTS RE EXECUTIONS, ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM, BANK NATIONALIZATION AND LAND SEQUESTRATION. AFTER
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QUESTIONING PMAC CLOSELY IN ORDER ASSURE HIMSELF THAT ETHIOPIAN

SOCIALISM DOES NOT MEAN COMMUNISM AND THAT ECONOMIC MEASURES WERE SELECTIVE AND DO NOT AUGUR MINDLESS RELIANCE ON IDEOLOGICAL SLOGANS, TEFERRA OFFERED HIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (HE IS A TRAINED JOURNALIST) TO THE GOVT.

3. TEFERRA SAID THREE EARLY TASKS WILL BE TO CORRECT FALSE IMPRESSIONS CREATED BY INEPT MILITARY PRONOUNCEMENTS, PROVIDE MASS MEDIA POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR ARMED FORCES, AND CONVINCE SUSPICIOUS AND HOSTILE QUOTE FEUDAL UNQUOTE REGIMES IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN OF NATIONALIST, NON-DOCTRINAIRE NATURE OF ETHIOPIA TIKDEM. THIS CONNECTION, TEFERRA STATED THAT QUOTE WE HAVE CONFIRMED UNQUOTE THAT M-1 RIFLES IN HANDS ERITREANS WERE FURNISHED BY IRAN THROUGH SUDANESE TERRITORY.

4. ON ERITREAN PROBLEM, TEFERRA SAID PMAC IS DETERMINED TO PRESERVE ETHIOPIAN UNITY, QUOTE BY FORCE IF NECESSARY UNQUOTE. RE SUDANESE MEDIATION, HE SAID THAT RECENT REMARKS BY FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID HAD RAISED QUESTION OF SUDANESE RELIABILITY FROM PMAC POINT OF VIEW. (IN A PRESS INTERVIEW JAN 23, I.E., BEFORE HIS REMOVAL FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, KHALID HAD DEFENDED PAST SUDANESE RELATIONS WITH HAILE SELASSIE AND SPOKEN OF NEED TO TAKE ERITREAN INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT.)

5. TEFERRA SPOKE HIGHLY OF A CAPT. SISAL (PHONETIC) OF PMAC, IDENTIFYING HIM AS INFLUENTIAL IN FOREIGN POLICY.

6. COMMENT: TEFERRA WILL BE ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN FOR PMAC BUT MAY NOT LAST IF HE IS AS OUTSPOKEN AS HE CLAIMS. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD BIOGRAPHICAL ASSESSMENT BY POUCH. BREWER

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